

ABSTRACT

An assay device for determining an analyte in an aqueous sample comprises: (i) an elongate flow matrix (6) allowing lateral transport of fluid therethrough by capillary action, wherein the matrix comprises a liquid application zone (3) and downstream thereof, a detection zone (8) having an immobilized capture agent capable of directly or indirectly binding to said analyte, (ii) a wicking member (13) placed at the downstream end of the flow matrix and having an upstream end and a downstream end, and (iii) a time indicator (14) placed downstream of the detection zone (8) for indicating when liquid applied to the liquid application zone has reached the time indicator. The time indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination which is capable of exhibiting a visible colour change when hydrated by the aqueous sample. The assay device is characterized in that the time indicator (14) is arranged in contact with the wicking member (13) at a variable position between the upstream and downstream ends thereof to thereby permit variation of the time elapsing from the application of the liquid until the indicator substance changes colour. A method of performing an assay for determining an analyte in a sample, comprises the steps of flowing sample and assay liquid(s) through the flow matrix of the device such that they reach the detection zone in a predetermined sequence, and when the time indicator has changed colour, reading the result of the assay in the detection zone.

Fig. 3